

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 228962  
ORIGIN DLOS-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-07 ISO-00 SS-14 SSO-00 SP-02 INR-05  
L-01 OES-02 PRS-01 EUR-08 IO-06 INRE-00 /049 R

DRAFTED BY S/AR:AGJAMES:MZ  
APPROVED BY S/AR - AMB. ELLIOT RICHARDSON  
D/LOS- MR. BERLIND  
NEA/INS - MR. THIBAUT(SUBST)  
IO/UNP - MR. MACUK(SUBST)

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O R 222333Z SEP 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 228962

STADIS//////////

LIMDIS FOR AMBASSADOR WRIGGINS FROM AMB RICHARDSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, CE

SUBJECT:LOS: PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE

REF: STATE 223095

1. THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS INFORMED US OF THE CONVERSATION THE UK HIGH COMMISSIONER HAD WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE SRI LANKA MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS EARLIER THIS WEEK CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF LOS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE HIGH COMMISSIONER SPOKE TO YOU BEFORE HIS TALK WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, AND WE ALSO ASSUME THAT HE HAS SINCE FILLED YOU IN ON THAT CONVERSATION.

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2. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S STATEMENT TO THE UK HIGH COMMISSIONER THAT ALTHOUGH AMERASINGHE WOULD BE REPLACED AS SRI LANKA PERMREP TO THE UN IN JANUARY, AMERASINGHE WOULD REMAIN LEADER OF THE SRI LANKA LOS DELEGATION SO THAT HE COULD CONTINUE TO PRESIDE OVER THE LOS CONFERENCE. WE ARE PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGED BY THE HIGH

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENT TO LONDON THAT THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S INFORMATION IS PROBABLY ACCURATE. WE NOTE HIS

RECOMMENDATION TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE THAT MATTERS BE ALLOWED TO REST WHERE THEY ARE AND THAT THE HIGH COMMISSIONER NOT PURSUE THE MATTER WITH THE SRI LANKA PRIME MINISTER. HIGH COMMISSIONER IS REPORTEDLY OF THE VIEW THAT TO PRESS THE CASE FOR SUPPORT OF AMERASINGHE NOW MIGHT ANTAGONIZE FOREIGN MINISTER HAMEED AND THUS BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

3. WE ARE NOW PLANNING SOME ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF AMERASINGHE, IN PART IN RESPONSE TO AN EXPRESSION OF SERIOUS CONCERN BY AMB. ZULETA, THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPRESENTATIVE AT THE LOS CONFERENCE, ABOUT AMERASINGHE'S POSITION WITH HIS OWN GOVERNMENT. AMONG THESE ACTIONS ARE: A MEETING OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND AMERASINGHE DURING THE FORMER'S VISIT TO NEW YORK OCTOBER 4-5; THE SECRETARY'S RAISING AMERASINGHE'S FUTURE WITH HAMEED IN NEW YORK NEXT WEEK; US LOBBYING WITH SELECTED KEY COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY JAPAN (IN VIEW OF ITS ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL IMPORTANCE TO SRI LANKA), TO MAKE KNOWN TO THE GSL THEIR HOPE AMERASINGHE WILL CONTINUE TO BE IN A POSITION TO BE CONFERENCE PRESIDENT. THE PRESIDENT-AMERASINGHE MEETING IS IMPORTANT AND DESIRABLE ON ITS OWN MERITS, BUT THE QUESTION ARISES IN CONFIDENTIAL

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LIGHT OF THE INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE UK HIGH COMMISSIONER THAT A DECISION HAS APPARENTLY BEEN MADE TO ALLOW AMERASINGHE TO REMAIN AS SRI LANKA LOS DELEGATION CHIEF, WHETHER THE US SHOULD ENGAGE IN EXTENSIVE LOBBYING EFFORTS TO NAIL DOWN THAT DECISION. IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL TO HAVE YOUR OWN ASSESSMENT OF THE REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND YOUR JUDGMENT ABOUT HOW HARD WE SHOULD PRESS SRI LANKA AT THIS TIME, EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE INFLUENCE WITH THE SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT.

4. THE SECRETARY GOES TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 26 FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS. I WILL BE IN NEW YORK PART OF THE DAY OF SEPTEMBER 26 AND THE MORNING OF THE 27TH. YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF WE MIGHT HAVE IT BY THE END OF THE DAY SEPTEMBER 23.

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## Message Attributes

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